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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,143	12/27/2000	Yves Marco	PHF 99-635	4759

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS  
P.O. BOX 3001  
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

BANANKHAH, MAJID A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2127

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/749,143

Applicant(s)

MARCO, YVES

Examiner

Majid A Banankhah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to application filed on December 27, 2000. Claims 1-10 are considered for examination.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bienvenu (U.S. Pat. No. 4,395,757, hereinafter Bienvenu).

Per claim 1, Bienvenu teaches of:

a computer program product comprising semaphore means for stalling a first task until one of a predetermined set of events occurs (col. 6, lines 1-19, *Thus if the occurrence of an event is to be delivered to another process, the semaphore stores the event if the receiving process is not ready. Alternatively if a process is waiting for an event which has not yet occurred, the semaphore stores the process until the event occurs*), characterized in that the computer program product comprises specific message files associated with said first task for receiving data to be processed by the first task (col. 16, lines 44-54, *a semaphore is used to signal event occurrence and to handle queues of messages. An event in this context is anything observed by a process which may be of interest to some other process*), the occurrence of one of said set of predetermined events causing a piece of data to be written in one of the associated message files (col. 30, lines 61-68, continued on col. 31, lines 1-5, *The dispatcher is a firmware/hardware unit whose main purpose is to manage the various queues of processes, and to switch between processes and includes the updating of the queues of processes, the process control blocks PCB's, the running process word in the system base and the register of a new process. It also delivers messages to a process, which is actually waiting for it on a semaphore (after a V-operation, a simulated V-operation for the IOC or for the exception handler)*).

Per claim 9, Bienvenu teaches, a method of synchronizing a first task with respect to an occurrence of one of a predetermined set of events (col. 6, lines 1-19), the method comprising:

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a waiting step for making said first task wait for a specific semaphore until one of said predetermined set of events occurs (col. 16, 22-30, *Since more than one process may be awaiting on the same event, a queue of waiting processes 803a-803b exists for each event. Waiting processes are also strung together via process links 805 residing in the GO segment. A pointer to the head of a wait queue exists in a semaphore 903 (to be later described). A number of events exist for which a process may wait; therefore, there are a number of wait queues each of which has an associated semaphore 903, 904*), said first task being associated with message files for receiving data in a message (col. 16, lines 44-54), said data reception being caused by the occurrence of one of said predetermined events (col. 36, lines 5-25), a blocking step for temporarily blocking interruptions during reception of said data (col. 28, lines 5-35, *interrupt block*), a reception step for receiving said data in one of the associated message files (col. 16, lines 44-54), a wakeup step for waking up said first task upon reception of the data in one of its associated files (col. 36, lines 58-68, continued on col. 37, lines 1-5, *change the state of the process*), a reading and processing step performed by said first task for reading and processing the data received in a message file (col. 30, lines 61-68, continued on col. 31, lines 1-5, *deliver message to a process which is actually waiting for it on a semaphore...*).

Per claim 2, Bienvenu teaches of “wherein said set of predetermined events includes hardware interruptions, a hardware interruption causing a selected interruption handler to write data into one of the message files associated with the first task (col. 28, lines 4-35, and col. 30, lines 61-68, continued on col. 31, lines 1-5), a blocking mechanism being used for temporarily blocking the interruptions during said data writing the message file” (col. 28, lines 4-35, *interrupt block*).

Per claim 3, Bienvenu teaches of “wherein said set of predetermined events includes at least an event causing a second task to write data into one of the associated message files” in col. 36, lines 58-68, continued on col. 31, lines 1-14 (*process link and plurality of process in waiting states*).

Per claim 4, the claim is rejected for the reasons stated in the rejection of claim 1, and 3, in addition Bienvenu teaches of “wherein said message files are given a priority level for the first task to process the data received in the associated files in the order of priority of the file in which the data are received” in col. 40, lines 40-62 (*message priority level*).

Per claim 5, Bienvenu teaches of “4, wherein the message files with the highest priority level are allocated to interruption handlers so as to receive data from said interruption handlers (col. 47, lines, *priority enqueueing*).

Per claim 6, the claim is rejected for the reasons stated in the rejection of claim 1-5, in addition Bienvenu teaches of “wherein said message files comprise a data structure which is accessible by pointer manipulation” (col. 43, lines 12-27, *message queue head pointer*).

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Per claim 7, the claim is rejected for the reasons stated in the rejection of claim 1-6, in addition Bienvenu teaches of "wherein said system comprises:

a processor for executing a set of schedulable tasks including at least the first task,

a scheduler for selecting one of said schedulable tasks for execution by said processor, at least an interrupt handler for handling interrupts (Bienvenu inherently teaches schedulability for the reason that the tasks are synchronized for execution and that constitute schedulability, and for the interruption mechanism, see the rejection of claim 2),

an interrupt server for performing a specific function in response to the occurrence of an interrupt (see, interrupt and specific function in col. 53, lines 1-5).

Per claim 8, the claim is rejected for the reasons stated in the rejection of claim 7 because the system of Bienvenu perform the functions recited in claim 7

Per claim 10, see the rejection of claim 2.

### *Conclusion*

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Majid A. Banankhah** whose voice telephone number is (703) 308-6903. A voice mail service is also available at this number.

All response sent to U.S. Mail should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park Two, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Six Floor (Receptionist).** All hand-delivered responses will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. Please do not hand deliver responses to the Examiner.

**All Formal or Official Faxes must be signed and sent to either (703) 308-9051 or (703) 308-9052.** Official faxes will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. The date of entry will correspond to the actual FAX reception date unless that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal Holiday within the District of Columbia, in which case the official date of receipt will be the next business day. The application file will be promptly forwarded to the Examiner unless the application file must be sent to another area of the office, e.g., Finance Division for fee charging, etc.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Majid Banankhah

3/21/04

  
MAJID BANANKHAH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER